



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
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**MEMBER**

HIGHER EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Dear Co-Chairs Lopes and Gresko, Vice Chairs Hochadel and Palm, Ranking Members Harding and Callahan, and Members of the Environment Committee, I am writing testimony in strong opposition to [Senate Bill 1148](#) and [Senate Bill 1149](#), that would tragically affect Connecticut's wildlife.

**OPPOSE - [S.B. 1148](#):** An Act Authorizing Certain Killing and Hunting of Black Bear and Prohibiting Bird Feeders and Other Unintentional Feeding of Potentially Dangerous Animals.

This bill allows the legalization of a lottery to hunt black bears in Connecticut. I strongly oppose any lethal use to reduce the bear population by allowing recreational hunting. There are many proven and better non-lethal ways to reduce issues that interactions with bears and humans may cause. For example, reducing food attractants which *Bearsmart* communities all over the country are doing to resolve "nuisance" bear issues. Human behavior causes this problem, and the overdevelopment of open space where bears live.

Researchers in other states have found that hunts do not eliminate nuisance complaints because bears killed deep in the woods are not the same bears who people complain about in more developed areas—where hunting would not even be safe. Recreational hunting would also tragically produce more orphaned bear cubs. Current state statute already allows the DEEP commissioner to kill a bear if there is a public health or safety threat (CGS 26-3). This makes a trophy hunt unnecessary.

The CT Coalition to Protect Black Bears supports legislation that promotes effective and non-lethal strategies to prevent problems with black bears. Most incidents with bears are driven by habituation and human food sources, and public education is critical to reversing that trend. I urge the Committee to oppose this bill.

**OPPOSE - [S.B. 1149](#):** An Act Eliminating All Restrictions for Sunday Hunting on Public and Private Property.

This bill would remove restrictions on Sunday hunting for all huntable species using any kind of weaponry, as well as allow it on both public and private property. Should this pass, it would put people at risk on a very common day of leisure. Connecticut residents deserve one day out of the week to know that they can recreationally hike, camp, and enjoy the outdoors without the fear of accidentally being injured or killed by accidentally being mistaken as a huntable animal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Gary Turco  
State Representative  
Proudly Serving Newington and New Britain's 27<sup>th</sup> District